

Virginia Legislature.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, bills were reported to authorize the Virginia Central Railroad Company to contract with the Chesapeake and Alexandria Railroad Company for certain purposes.

On increasing the capital stock of the Frederickburg and Gordonsville Railroad Company, and to amend and re-enact an act concerning the same.

A resolution of enquiry was adopted for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of the revenue of the Chesapeake and Alexandria Railroad Company.

On the motion of Mr. Yates, the bill to alter the corporate limits of the town of Martinsburg was taken up and passed.

On the motion of Mr. Braden, the bill to amend and re-enact the 4th and 5th sections of an act to amend and re-enact the charter of the town of Leesburg, in the county of Loudoun, was taken up and passed.

A bill was passed to amend and re-enact the 21st section of the Code. [Title withheld.] On the motion of Mr. Thomas, the bill to amend the charter of the city of Alexandria was taken up and passed.

On the motion of Mr. West, the bill authorizing the Justices of the Peace to give judgment on the merits of bonds, taken by Constables on executions issued by a Justice, was taken up and passed.

This bill was advocated by Messrs. Thomas and Coghill, and opposed by Mr. Ambler.

The joint resolutions offered by Mr. Thomas, requiring merchants in the State to give to commissioners of the revenue a list of their goods, stating which are of the growth of Virginia, which are grown out of the State, and which in foreign countries, the passing of this statement to be one of the conditions of obtaining the license, were taken up and after debate indefinitely postponed.

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Congress.

In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Seward submitted a joint resolution from the Legislature of New York, in opposition to the admission of Kansas.

Mr. Seward proceeded to give a history of the public sentiment in the State of New York on the subject of slavery. He endeavored to show that a continual change has been going on for years past in that State against slavery; and also, that in the abolition of slavery by its legislature, both public and private interests were promoted.

He also read from a paper purporting to be a report of the proceedings of the English Parliament, to show that the sentiment of the English nation is not changing to favor the re-establishment of slavery in her provinces.

Mr. Mason answered that that Government has at least legalized the importation of barbarian negroes and East Indians as forced apprentices to labor.

Mr. King said that he would not allow anything to be said in relation to the English nation could do in relation to slavery to influence his opinion on that subject.

A resolution was adopted calling on the President for correspondence between this Government and Chili, in relation to the seizure by the authorities of that Government, of an American merchant vessel.

Mr. Mason offered a resolution authorizing Lieut. Wm. A. Jeffers, of the U. S. Navy, to accept a sword from the Queen of Spain, as an acknowledgment of assistance rendered by him to certain Spanish citizens at Panama. Adopted.

Mr. Hale rose to a personal explanation, and said that he had done the President of the United States injustice in his remarks a few days ago in relation to his partaking at the Military Asylum of entertainments prepared by the officers thereof at the expense of the poor inmates. He would remark that he has since been assured that the President never broke their bread or partook of their salt.

A large amount of private business was disposed of, and an effort was then made to call up the bill for the admission of Minnesota.

The House of Representatives, at an early hour resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and took up the Deficiency Appropriation bill.

Mr. Clark, of Missouri, made a speech in reply to the remarks of Mr. Blair, on Tuesday.

Mr. Blair gave notice that he should reply to Mr. Clark.

Mr. Granger made a speech against the admission of Kansas.

East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. We learn from the Knoxville Register that the cars commenced running to Greenville, on last Saturday. There now remains an interval of seventeen miles only to be finished—the greater portion of which has been graded, and is ready for the rails. The Register thinks the whole road will be finished by the middle of May.

The completion of this road is an event of great importance to the friends of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad. It places us in direct railroad communication with all the Southern and West-western States of the Union.—*Epoch, Vir.*

On Friday last, Mr. John Peor had a negro man employed plowing up his garden lot, attached to the house in Staunton formerly occupied by Mr. Wm. Coleman, who, it will be recollected, was murdered in 1853 in that place. While engaged in the work the plough struck against something, which upon examination was found to be a crock containing gold and silver coin to the amount of \$324.24. Whether the money was buried by Mr. Coleman, or by some former occupant of the premises, can only be a matter of conjecture.

B. H. Robertson, First Lieutenant Second Dragoons, who has been stationed in Richmond, Va., for many months, as recruiting officer, has received orders to join his company, now at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and will leave in a few days.

NEW SPRING GOODS.—We are now receiving and opening our supply of SPRING GOODS, and would call the attention of our city and country customers, to the very great inducements which we are now offering, at Brent's old stand.

J. F. & L. A. LARKIN.

CATSUP AND SAUCE.—Mushroom, Tomato, and Walnut Catsup, Worcestershire and Pepper Sauce, received and for sale by THOMAS CLOWES.

HAMS.—Sugar Cured Hams and Shoulder Bacon, of superior quality, for sale by THOMAS CLOWES.

NOTICE.—The subscriber, having purchased of A. L. Gregory his entire stock of Goods and interest in the STOVE and TIN BUSINESS, is prepared to execute, with promptness, all orders for Plain and Japanned TIN WARE, or other work in his line. He will also keep on hand an assortment of Cooking and Parlor STOVES, Coalers, Pumps, &c., together with all other articles usually kept in similar establishments.

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LOCAL ITEMS.

AMENDED CHARTER.—It will be seen that the bill amending the charter of the City of Alexandria, has passed the Senate of Virginia. Among other things, it provides for an extension of the corporate limits of the city, and gives to the City Council the power to impose a tax for the paving of the streets, &c., upon the property-holders on the paved streets, equal to two-thirds of the cost of paving; the tax to be assessed upon the property-holders, according to the number of feet owned on said street by each.

The amended charter disqualifies members of either branch of the City Council from being elected to any office of trust or emolument.—We understand provisions have also been inserted in regard to contested elections between officers of the city, elected by the people, and enlarging the qualifications of voters as to the general offices.

THE PROSPECTS OF ALEXANDRIA, in a business point of view, which for some time past have been gloomy, from a combination of circumstances, almost unparalleled in the records of a city, but from many of which every city in the Union suffered, and which were unforeseen by the wisest and most experienced in the land, are improving, and again we have the bright side of the picture of our future growth and prosperity turned towards us, better delineated, and in colors stronger and more durable than before.

An unusual stringency in monetary affairs, a great fall in the value of trade, and a general stagnation in business, all conspired to cast an unwelcome gloom over our whole community, and those who, in her darkest hour, had ever upheld Alexandria and prophesied for her a high commercial position, began to waver and to doubt, but yet did not despair; and when affairs assumed their worst aspect, and the clouds of adversity hung heavy and dark above and around us, there was no such word as "fall," and come what would, "sink or swim," all had determined to stand by the good old town, and at all risks and under any circumstances, to sustain her fair reputation. We passed through the ordeal now, and now the clouds have broken and the sun of prosperity is once more shedding his gladdening rays full upon us, filling every heart with new life and fresh courage.—First, the Legislature in its wisdom, passed the "Relief bill," which affords immediate relief in monetary circles; and then the House of Delegates, with most commendable liberality, passed bills making appropriations—not large, but sufficient for the time—for carrying on our Railroads.—There seems to be no doubt that these bills will pass the Senate, and thus, in a short time, there will be put in circulation, in our midst, a million of capital. Next we have this spring the prospect of an abundant fishery on the Potomac (for which Alexandria is the depot,) and the failure of which, last year, was so severely felt, and caused many heavy losses. The weather, thus far, has been most propitious, and the prospect for a large quantity of fish, was never better. This will create a brisk business, and bring to our city a good deal of capital. Then the Canal is already in navigable condition, and we may expect early next month to chronicle the resumption of the coal trade, which is of such great interest to us, and should be carefully fostered. The crops in the neighboring counties are looking well, and from the Valley, where for several years they have been so unfortunate, we have glowing accounts of the prospect of abundant yield. And we have also a fair prospect for having the National Fidelity located here, which would at once so largely increase our population, and in every way benefit us. These things all give us an assurance of a good time coming, and though we may not progress with such rapid strides as some expect, yet our growth will be steady, and we have made another and a better move on our march to commercial greatness.

THE CAMPBELL MINSTRELS.—This celebrated troupe give their first entertainment at Liberty Hall to-night, and will doubtless meet with a liberal patronage. Their great success in Richmond a few weeks ago, prevented their visiting this city when they were last announced, but there will be no disappointment this time, and a rich treat will be given to those who attend to-night.

CHURCH FESTIVAL.—Today is celebrated by our Catholic fellow citizens, as the "Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary," and is kept with great solemnity, in honor of the Incarnation of our Savior. It was anciently called "Lady Day."

There will be services at St. Mary's Church, at 6 and 10 o'clock, A. M., and 7 P. M.

SHAD.—But few Shad are yet offering in our market. About 180 were caught at the Aquia Creek fishing landing, on Tuesday, upwards of 150 fine shad were taken. Every thing indicates that the present season will be a fruitful one to these engaged in fishing. The Washington Star learns that Wm. C. Johnson, Esq., together with several other gentlemen, have purchased a beautiful site at Point Look Out, embracing upwards of three hundred acres, at a cost of from \$18,000 to \$20,000, for the purpose of establishing a new watering place. The preliminary arrangements are already made and the work is to commence at once.

The President held a "drawing-room" on Tuesday evening, which was graced by a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen from all parts of the Union, with representatives of several foreign lands.

The Catholic Beneficial Total Abstinence Society, in Washington, low numbers near 500 members.

STORE FOR RENT.—The new three-story BRICK STORE on the north side of King street, recently occupied by George R. Blacklock as an auction and Dry Goods Store, is for rent. The situation of this property is in a business part of the city, and its complete arrangements for any kind of mercantile business, renders it very desirable. Apply near door, to HILL & CO., or J. A. MILBURN, corner of King and Washington streets.

FOR RENT.—The three-story BRICK DWELLING on Prince street, opposite the Fairgrounds, at present occupied by James Chamberlain. Possession given immediately. For terms, apply to WM. N. MEVEIGH.

WOOL purchased by DANIEL F. HOGE.

MANASSA'S GAP RAILROAD.—The Woodstock Tenth Legion says:—The very active and enterprising Agent of the Manassas Gap Railroad at this place, Mr. Pitman, has been latterly very prompt in making arrangements for suitable better cars for the conveyance of beef cattle and hogs from this point to Alexandria and Washington. We learn some forty head of fat beefs, will be transported to Washington this week from Woodstock, by the Manassas road, and said to be of the most improved stock, that will be offered in that market or elsewhere for a long period. They were fattened by Andrew Funkhouser, and purchased by Chas. Welsh Esq. We are pleased to see that the vigilance observed by Mr. Pitman, at this point for the promotion of the interests of the Manassas road is laudable. We have always entertained the opinion that none but energetic and complainant men should be employed at depots, or as conductors on passenger trains; of this class, the McDonnells have a trio in Messrs. Pitman and McDonnell and Blackley, the two latter of which are polite and courteous, and the passenger trains. We should be doing an act of injustice if we did not mention the name of Capt. J. H. Davis, in connection with this matter, the skillful mail-agent whose assiduity in his department, has won for him high admiration.

SPECIAL COURT OF APPEALS.—Among the cases argued and decided by the Special Court of Appeals, at its January term, were: Kercheval vs. Leach—appeal from circuit court of Fauquier county; argued by Wood Bouldin, for appellant, and R. T. Daniel, for appellee. Reversed.

D. Bell, ex'r., vs. Maddox—appeal from circuit court of Fauquier county; argued by Wood Bouldin, for plaintiff, and Francis L. Smith and John M. Patton, for defendants. Affirmed.

Dixon vs. Miller, &c.—appeal from circuit court of Alexandria county; argued by Geo. W. Brent, H. Winter Davis and Wood Bouldin, for plaintiffs, and Francis L. Smith and John M. Patton, for defendants. Reversed.

Davis vs. Lynn—appeal from circuit court of Prince William county; argued by S. Chilton, for appellant, and Wood Bouldin, for appellee. Reversed.

Taurman vs. McGruder and als—appeal dismissed.

Beck vs. Ford—appeal from circuit court of Stafford county; argued by Robert E. Scott for appellant, and A. A. Morson, for appellee. Affirmed.

Fletcher vs. Hill, &c.—appeal from circuit court of Fauquier county; argued by Wood Bouldin for plaintiff, and A. A. Morson and James G. Blackwell for defendants. Affirmed.

Wellford's ex'r. vs. Aslop—appeal from circuit court of Stafford county; argued by A. A. Morson for appellant, and John M. Patton, for appellee. Affirmed.

Smith vs. Smith's adm'r.—appeal from circuit court of Alexandria county; argued by Roscoe B. Heath for appellant, and Francis L. Smith for appellee. Affirmed.

INCIDENT.—About one week ago, a colored professor of the art pugilistic, named Wm. Vincent, who is said to have been Tom Iyer's trainer, in the early days of that worthy, passed through Washington to Alexandria, where he made arrangements for a sparring exhibition to come off there. He then got on board the steamer George Page to return to Washington. Capt. Price, in passing around to collect the fare from the passengers, came across Vincent, and demanded his free papers as usual. The man made reply that he did not choose to show his papers, and pulling out a dime and two coppers, said, as he held them forth, that that was all the fare he chose to show. Capt. Price informed him that the law compelled him to cause the free papers of any colored man, passing out of the State of Virginia, to be exhibited, or said colored man must be vouchered for by some responsible white man. To all this the darkey still remained indifferent, and when he reached the landing, he endeavored to go ashore, but was prevented by Capt. Price. He then hauled off and struck the Captain two heavy blows, which had the effect to disable him; but several of the deck hands sprang upon the fellow and secured him, after some trouble, and looked him up in the hold. He was taken to Alexandria, and there arrested, and taken before a magistrate, who heard the evidence of the Captain and the hands, and sentenced the prisoner to receive thirty-nine lashes on the bare back, pay a fine of \$5, and give security that he would never come into the State of Virginia again. The punishment was inflicted on last Sunday morning.—*Washington Star.*

STEAM NAVIGATION ON THE CANAL.—We learn that a number of gentlemen in Washington and Georgetown, of influence and means, are deeply interested in the project of navigation, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, by steam power. This winter another boat, in addition to the Jas. L. Cathcart, has been supplied with an engine, and a new, improved paddle wheel, and a propelling power. This, we are told, is of peculiar construction, and its action upon the water is such as to give the desired motive-power, without causing any wave or commotion in the water at all calculated to injure the banks or bottom of the canal.—*Cambridge Citizen.*

RIVER NEWS.—At the Southern end of the Long Bridge, on Tuesday, sixty fine shad were caught at one haul of a seine. At the Aquia Creek fishing landing, on Tuesday, upwards of 150 fine shad were taken. Every thing indicates that the present season will be a fruitful one to these engaged in fishing. The Washington Star learns that Wm. C. Johnson, Esq., together with several other gentlemen, have purchased a beautiful site at Point Look Out, embracing upwards of three hundred acres, at a cost of from \$18,000 to \$20,000, for the purpose of establishing a new watering place. The preliminary arrangements are already made and the work is to commence at once.

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BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen, held March 23d, 1858, there were present, Law. B. Taylor, Esq., President.

Messrs. Dempsey, Lambert, Reid, Armstrong and Smith.

The Committee on Streets made their report in answer to the resolution authorizing them to advertise for proposals for cleaning the streets, and also reported the several bids received by them; which report was adopted.

A bill of Samuel N. Chipley, against the Corporation, amounting to \$95.85, was presented, and referred to the Committee on Claims.

A petition was received from sundry citizens, asking that carts and wagons, hauling fish offal, should be prevented from passing along a street south of Oronoko, or east of Henry street.

Mr. Armstrong, on leave, introduced a bill, entitled, "An Act for the prevention of nuisances," which had its first reading, and was referred to the Committee on General Laws.

The following order was received from the Common Council, and concurred in, viz: Ordered, That the following be added to the Joint Rules, viz: On Fire Department, to whom shall be referred all applications for money, hose, &c.

The following resolution was received from the Common Council, and laid on the table, viz: Resolved, That hereafter the Clerk of the City Committee shall be appointed, and his salary fixed by the City Council.

A message was received from the Mayor, stating that Geo. D. Fowle, Esq., had declined to receive the lease entered into between the City Council and the said Geo. D. Fowle, for a lot of ground on the north side of Duke street, and west of the Strand.

On motion of Mr. Dempsey, it was Ordered, That the message of the Mayor, with the accompanying documents in relation to the contract of lease from this Corporation to Geo. D. Fowle, be referred to the Corporation Attorney, for his opinion, as to the liability of said Fowle, under said contract; and that the said Attorney examine and report whether the provisions of said lease are such as this Council authorized to agree upon.

A communication was received from the Executive Committee, appointed by a Board of Commissioners, to provide for calling a Convention for quarantine and sanitary purposes, to be held in the city of Baltimore, and requesting that Delegates should be appointed to represent the city of Alexandria.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, (Mr. Reid in the Chair,) Dr. Gregory was appointed said Delegate.

The following resolution was received from the Common Council, and concurred in, viz: Resolved by the City Council, That permission be given to C. C. Smoot & Son, to place on Wilkes street, between St. Asaph and Washington streets, as much of the dirt as they intend digging off their lot, corner of Wilkes and St. Asaph streets, as will fill up said street on a level with the Railroad track, laid in and between the above named streets.

A bill was received from the Common Council, entitled, "An Act amending an Act, entitled 'An Act to provide for the appointment of Watchmen, Police Constables, and for other purposes, passed 20th of March, 1855,' which, on motion, was laid on the table.

The resolution of this Board, appointing the Mayor, with Messrs. Reid and J. B. Smoot, a committee to confer with our Representative in Congress, in relation to the establishment of the National Foundry, was returned from the Common Council amended, by adding twelve to said committee.

The motion upon the concurrence of this Board in the amendment was lost, by the following vote:—(the ayes and nays being called for.) Ayes—Messrs. Reid, Smith, and Lambert—3. Nays—Messrs. Taylor and Smith—2.

The report of the proxy of the Steam Ferry Company was received and laid on the table.

The following bill was received from the Common Council, viz: "An Act fixing the salary of the Dispenser of Medicines," which had its first and second readings, when, on motion, the 23d rule was suspended, and the bill had its third reading and passed the Board.

A communication was received from Wm. F. Moore, containing a proposal for cleaning the streets; which, on motion, was laid on the table.

Notice was received from the Common Council of their adherence to the amendment to the resolution appointing a committee upon the subject of the National Foundry.

On motion of Mr. Reid, a Committee of Conference was appointed to take the matter into consideration.

Messrs. Reid and Armstrong were appointed said committee on the part of this Board.

Upon invitation, the Board proceeded to the Council Chamber, for the purpose of going into the election of officers, when the following were duly elected:

Sept. of Night Watch—John Moore. Watchmen—Lewis Tignor, Lincoln Patton, Charles Thompson, Samuel Jefferson, Henry Jefferson, Bozill Waring, Elijah Horseman, Robt. W. Wade, John W. King, John P. Whitmore, A. J. Ogden, and John Thompson.